

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MADRID 01767 151234Z

53

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 L-02 SP-02

PRS-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 /041 W

----- 071812

P 151100Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1313

S E C R E T MADRID 1767

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, VATICAN

SUBJ: PAPAL NUNCIO'S VIEWS ON CONCORDAT AND LIBERAL-  
IZATION IN SPAIN

1. I CALLED ON MARCH 14 ON THE DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC  
CORPS WHO IS THE PAPAL NUNCIO, MONSIGNOR DR. LUIGI  
DADAGLIO. DADAGLIO HAS BEEN IN MADRID SINCE LATE 1967  
AND IS IDENTIFIED WITH THE LIBERAL ELEMENTS IN THE  
CHURCH.

2. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION AS TO THE STATUS OF THE  
NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPAIN ON A NEW CONCORDAT, THE NUNCIO  
SAID THAT LITTLE PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE SINCE THE  
QUESTION HAD TO BE APPROACHED WITH THE GREATEST POSSIBLE  
DISCRETION. IT WAS NO LONGER POSSIBLE TO CONDUCT A  
NEGOTIATION OF THIS SORT AS BETWEEN THE VATICAN AND THE  
SPANISH GOVERNMENT WITHOUT ANY REFERENCE TO PUBLIC ATTITUDES.  
IN FACT, THE SPANISH PEOPLE WERE DEPLY INTERESTED  
IN THIS QUESTION. ALTHOUGH THE SPANISH GOVT WISHED  
TO RETAIN MOST OF THE ARRANGEMENTS OF THE PRESENT CONCORDAT,  
THIS WAS NOT SOMETHING WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE  
EITHER TO THE VATICAN (AND HE MADE PARTICULAR REFERENCE  
TO VATICAN II) OR TO THE MAJORITY OF THE SPANISH PEOPLE.  
DADAGLIO SAID THAT ARCHBISHOP CASAROLI HAD BEEN TO  
MADRID THREE TIMES (NOT FOUR AS IT HAD BEEN REPORTED) AND

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MADRID 01767 151234Z

HAD HAD ONLY TWO CONTACTS WITH THE SPANISH GOVT.

UNFORTUNATELY, IN EACH INSTANCE, THE PRESS HAD MADE A GREAT DEAL OF HIS VISITS AND THIS CAUSED COMPLICATIONS FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE WHOLE QUESTION HAD TO BE APPROACHED WITH THE GREATEST DISCRETION AND DADGLIO GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE VATICAN WAS IN ABSOLUTELY NO HURRY TO CONCLUDE A NEW CONCORDAT, UNLESS THERE WAS A BETTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE VATICAN AND THE SPANISH GOVT ON THE NEW PRINCIPLES WHICH SHOULD CHARACTERIZE THE NEW CONCORDAT. HE GAVE NO INDICATION THAT HE THOUGHT SUCH AN UNDERSTANDING WOULD BE FORTHCOMING.

3. THE SPANISH GOVT WAS INSISTING ON ALL ITS RIGHTS UNDER THE PRESENT CONCORDAT AND THE VATICAN CONSEQUENTLY INSISTED ON ALL ITS RIGHTS. THERE WERE SOME SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH REGARD TO THE ACTIVITIES OF CERTAIN SPANISH PRIESTS WHO WENT CONSIDERABLY FURTHER IN SOME OF THEIR POLITICAL DECLARATIONS THAN THE VATICAN OR SOME OF THE SPANISH HIERARCHY BELIEVED DESIRABLE. UNDER THE CONCORDAT, A PRIEST COULD ONLY BE TRIED BY THE SPANISH AUTHORITIES WITH THE PRIOR PERMISSION OF THE BISHOP, AND A BISHOP COULD BE TRIED ONLY WITH THE PRIOR PERMISSION OF THE VATICAN. IN ORDER TO GET AROUND THE PROVISION WITH RESPECT TO THE PRIESTS, THE GOS LEVIED HEAVY FINES AGAINST PRIESTS WHO WERE INVOLVED IN WHAT THE GOS CONSIDERED TO BE ILLEGAL ACTIVITY, AND THEN IF THEY DID NOT PAY THE FINES, THEY WERE IMPRISONED. IN THIS INSTANCE, NO TRIAL WAS REQUIRED. DADGLIO INDICATED THAT THERE WERE MANY PRIESTS PRESENTLY IN JAIL.

4. IN RESPONSE TO MY INQUIRY AS TO HIS OWN EVALUATION OF LIBERALIZING TRENDS IN SPAIN, DADGLIO SAID THAT ALTHOUGH MANY PEOPLE IN SPAIN WERE READY FOR A CHANGE IN TERMS OF A MORE LIBERALIZED SYSTEM AFTER SO MANY YEARS OF THE PRESENT REGIME, HE PERSONALLY DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THERE WAS MUCH SUBSTANCE TO RECENT TALK ABOUT LIBERALIZATION. HE BELIEVED THAT FRANCO AND THOSE IMMEDIATELY AROUND HIM CONSIDERED THAT ANY TINKERING WITH THE BASIC STRUCTURE OF THE REGIME WOULD RAPIDLY DEVELOP A MOMENTUM OF ITS OWN AND WOULD GET OUT OF CONTROL, THUS PUTTING THE ENTIRE REGIME INTO QUESTION. THE EVENTS IN PORTUGAL WOULD ONLY STRENGTHEN  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MADRID 01767 151234Z

THIS POINT OF VIEW. DADGLIO WAS CAUTIOUS IN EXPRESSING AN OPINION AS TO WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IN A POST-FRANCO PERIOD, BUT DID COMMENT THAT THE DIFFICULTY WAS THAT AFTER ALL THESE YEARS UNDER THE PRESENT REGIME, THE SPANISH PEOPLE HAD NO CONCEPT OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES, CIVIC DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS WHICH MUST BE INHERENT IN ANY FREE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM IF THAT SYSTEM IS GOING TO WORK. THERE WAS ALSO A PROBLEM IN SPAIN OF RATHER STRONGLY

DEVELOPED REGIONAL FEELINGS AND ASPIRATIONS.

STABLER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONAL OPINION, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, NEGOTIATIONS, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ellisoob  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975MADRID01767  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750091-0533  
**From:** MADRID  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750347/aaaabqfk.tel  
**Line Count:** 118  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ellisoob  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <13 JUN 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <27 OCT 2003 by ellisoob>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PAPAL NUNCIO'S VIEWS ON CONCORDAT AND LIBERAL- IZATION IN SPAIN  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SP, (NUNCIO, PAPAL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006